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18. — *Spots on the Sun ; or, The Plumb-Line Papers. Being a Series of Essays, or Critical Examinations of Difficult Passages of Scripture ; together with a careful Inquiry into certain Dogmas of the Church.* By Rev. T. M. HOPKINS, A. M., Geneva, N. Y. Auburn : William J. Moses. 1862. 12mo. pp. 367.

THE “difficult passages of Scripture” discussed in this book are incidents of the Old Testament narrative which, in the form that they bear in our translation, lay, as the author thinks, too heavy a strain on the faith of the reader, but for which he proposes interpretations that relieve the difficulty. In two of the three cases which he examines, he has reached results in entire accordance with the principles of an exegesis both rational and reverent ; in the remaining instance, he claims on etymological grounds a peculiar and unprecedented rendering for a common and familiar Hebrew word. The “Dogmas of the Church” inquired into are certain dogmas that manifestly rest on tradition, and not on Scripture, and the author maintains with great tenacity and with a large affluence of argument and illustration — what might seem self-evident, had it not been virtually denied — that Jesus Christ taught the whole of Christianity. The work indicates on its writer’s part firm faith in revelation, a devout reverence for its records, and an earnest desire to ward off groundless objections and cavils by distinguishing between what the Scriptures actually teach and what misinterpretation and unauthorized inference have superinduced upon their teachings. Mr. Hopkins has evidently been a very faithful student of the originals of the sacred writings, and has, we think, studied with his own eyes and mind rather than through the agency of commentators ; for we find in his book very little of the stereotyped material which has passed from hand to hand, in Germany, England, and America, for the last fifty years.

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19. — *Eyes and Ears.* By HENRY WARD BEECHER. Boston : Ticknor and Fields. 1862. 12mo. pp. 419.

THIS is a collection of short articles on a great diversity of subjects, originally published, most of them in the New York Ledger, some of them in the Independent. They are both grave and gay, by which we do not mean that some are grave and others gay, but that the two elements interpenetrate each other as they do in our common experience of life. Mr. Beecher, indeed, is never so profoundly serious as when he seems the mere impersonation of drollery. When he lapses into homily, he is cold and superficial, while his humor scorches, and his